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SECRET CONTROL
U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYINFLUENCE OF THE USSR UPON THE CZECHOSLOVAK INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE.

The influence of the USSR upon the Czechoslovak industry from the technical point of view is very small. It did not practically bring anything new for chemical, textile and tannery industry. New methods can be observed in building houses (pneumatic squirting of plaster, prefabricated parts of construction), in machinery industry (quick cutting and grinding with help of galvanic current), in medicine (the so called placente - Filatov's method), in farming (some principles according to MITCHURIN). They are mostly not new things, possibly modified and passed off under the names of Russian authors.

There is plenty of scientific literature in the Russian book-shops in Prague. However, in its majority it does not bring anything new, it is mostly a free elaboration of the foreign world literature, sometimes from several authors together. There is a tendency to describe all technical development as Russian invention. As far as Source had the opportunity to talk to Russian technicians he considers their education one-sided, often very narrowly specialized. As to the methods used by the Russians, as far as Czechoslovak experts were informed about them, they pretend to be of Russian origin. As far as Source saw Russian instruments, nearly all of them are imitation of German, English or American ones and sometimes all these original models are used for copying the Russian product at the same time. They are manufactured comparatively roughly, however, they may fulfill the usual requirements. Optical instruments are mostly copies of Zeiss' instruments, electric measuring devices are mostly copies or imitations of those made by Hartmann & Braun, Siemens, Generalelectric, RCA etc. Russian cars shown in Prague were imitations of Opel or of American cars. There is quite a lot of gramophone records of Russian production in Prague. Their quality is very good as far as their sound is concerned and they are made of much better material than the Czechoslovak ones. 25X1X

Russian military material and tractors - they are very robust and roughly made but suitable for their purpose. There is nothing on them what would serve for their good appearance, they are very simply painted and their lower parts are neither smoothed nor puttied. The driving equipment is not nickled or chromed - evidently they are being built with the greatest speed and at the lowest possible cost, especially as far as labor is concerned and they are prepared for very rough handling, however, they fulfill their purpose perfectly.

Russian chemical matters are not pure and very often they are of no use for Czechoslovak chemical industry in the state they arrive, however, they most probably could fulfill the requirements in those cases where the appearance of the product is not concerned (Plastics of Russian formaldehyde were not nice, being coloured by iron, but they had good technical qualities.) Surprising is the quantity as well as the considerably good quality of luxurious cosmetics and perfumery shown at the Russian exhibitions. The quality of the Soviet tinned food in the export packing is the same as the European average. Fur products as they appeared at the last Prague Sample Fair were made of very good raw-material and its dressing and dying was perfect, however the tailoring was old-fashioned and quite impossible to wear from our point of view. Wireless sets for civilian use are of under-average quality, old construction and cases.

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